



USS GAMBIER BAY CVE-73



U.S.S. GAMBIER BAY CVE-73

"One Lost Lady"

The U.S.S. GAMBIER BAY CVE - 73

Type : Casablanca

Builder : Kaiser - Nordberg

Keel Laid : 7 - 10 - 43

Launched : 11 - 22 - 43

Commissioned : 12 - 28 - 43

Specifications : Same as Casablanca

CVE - 73 spent some time as a Transport Carrier and helped with supplies for the Invasion of the Marianas. She gave close support to the Marines on Saipan, Tinian, and Guam as well as the operations in the southern Palaus. CVE - 73 escorted the transport and amphibious landing ships to Leyte Gulf. Then she was assigned to the Escort Carrier Task Force as a member of "Taffy 3." The Escort Carriers of "Taffy 3" came under heavy Japanese surface fire on the morning of October 25. On that rainy morning (0723), the GAMBIER BAY came out of the mist and smoke screen and Furies of enemy shells began to fall about her. Her Captain (Vieweg) maneuvered the ship the best he could trying to miss the salvo of shells that came at her.

The GAMBIER BAY's first HIT slammed into her at 0810, seven minutes later another HIT, but the next Hit was a big one that did extreme damage to the ship.

Four minutes after that, the fourth Hit came causing the ship to List to the Port side. About 0837 three more shells staggered the Carrier. At 0845 she went "Dead in the Water".

After Capt. Vieweg gave the Order to abandon Ship at 0850. The ship had received 15 "HITS", up to that time. After the ship had been abandoned, 11 more "HITS" made their mark, and at 0907 the "Little Jeep" rolled over on her side and sunk.

cont.

The Japanese ships that were instrumental in the sinking of CVE - 73, were :

**I.J.N. Cruisers CHIKUMA, CHOKAI,
HAGURO & TONE.**

One of the most remembered statement during this Battle was, " They're Shooting At Us In Technicolor. "

The Gambler Bay was one of SIX " JEEP CARRIERS " to be Lost in WW II.

From supplying aircraft to the USS Enterprise, to Air Support at Saipan, and duty off Tinian, Palau Islands, Leyte, and the Marianas, CVE -73 was very busy in her short Life.

Her Air Group was VC - 10.